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REMARKS

By the preceding amendments, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claims 2 and 7, which have been cancelled, so as to characterize the uninterrupted juncture as being defined by a permanent seam and so as to characterize the permanent seam as extending around a posterior portion of the head of the wearer but not around an anterior portion of the head of the wearer.

Moreover, claim 8 has been amended so as to depend upon claim 1. Claim 8 recites that the seam is sewn. Claim 9, which continues to depend upon claim 8, recites that the seam is sealed by an adhesive sealant so as to be fluid-impervious.

Apropos of claim 1, as amended, the undersigned attorney traverses the Primary Examiner's observation with regard to Bowman (U.S. 4,184,212) that "[w]ith regard to claim 7, the uninterrupted juncture is defined by a permanent seam (see figure 1)."

Rather, the undersigned attorney submits that claim 1, as amended, is distinguishable from Bowman at least for the following reasons:

In Bowman, the shroud 20 does not comprise an identifiable cover, which is adapted to cover a helmet and which is joined to an identifiable shroud, which is adapted to cover lower portions of the head, face, and neck of the wearer, at a juncture defined by a seam. Rather, the seam appearing in Figure 1 appears to join two differently identifiable portions of the shroud 20, namely, a posterior portion, which is adapted to cover a posterior portion of the helmet, and an anterior portion, which is adapted to cover an anterior portion of the helmet and which has a provision for the shield plate 16.

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Bowman does not disclose or suggest in Figure 1 or elsewhere that the shroud 20 has a seam extending around a posterior portion of the head of the wearer but not around an anterior portion of the head of the wearer. Rather, the seam appearing in Figure 1 extends partly across and downwardly along a lateral portion of the head of the wearer but does not extend around a posterior portion of the head of the wearer. Further, Bowman does not disclose or suggest whether the seam appearing in Figure 1 extends around an anterior portion of the head of the wearer.

Apropos of claim 8, as amended, and apropos of claim 9, the undersigned attorney submits that, as Bowman does not disclose or suggest a permanent seam extending around a posterior portion of the head of the wearer but not around an anterior portion of the head of the wearer, the teachings of Sanischalchi (U.S. 4,803,109) are inapplicable.

The undersigned attorney submits, therefore, that claim 1, as amended, claim 8, as amended, and claim 9 should be now allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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